BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

2003-2004

Bringing Out the Best in British Columbia

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

It's my pleasure to present the third Annual Report of the Government of British Columbia.

We have been working actively over the last three years to honour our commitments to revitalize our economy, cut taxes and get our fiscal house in order, renew health care and deliver excellence in education. It has been hard work fixing the problems we inherited, but we are turning the corner.

We're building a strong foundation growth, and the results are beginning to show. The plan that we laid out for British Columbians three years ago is working. Over 95 per cent of our New Era commitments are completed or underway. We've provided $1 billion in net tax relief and 140,000 unnecessary regulations have been eliminated. Health spending has increased by $2 billion, 25,000 new post-secondary spaces are being added, and reforms are underway to revitalize and unleash new growth in every sector of our economy.

As a result, British Columbia is now leading the way in Canada again. We're number one in job creation, housing starts and business confidence. Our economic growth has jumped from last place to fourth in Canada, and is forecast to rank second in 2004. All of this has been achieved while balancing the budget in 2004/05 – on plan and on schedule.

With all we have to work with as a province, there is nothing we can't achieve if we continue to work together in pursuit of our shared goals.

This report lays out the specific measures that provide a summary of our strategic goals, and our province's long-term progress toward meeting each goal. In some cases, the most recent data available is for time periods prior to 2003/04, and does not reflect the progress we have achieved in the past 12 months. We're going to continue working in the year ahead to build on the progress we have made, and bring out the best in British Columbia.

Our province and our people have unlimited potential. We're going to continue working to lead British Columbia forward to a brighter future for us all.

Gordon Campbell,
Premier

INTRODUCTION

This is the third Annual Strategic Plan Report of the Government of British Columbia. This Report is part of overall government efforts to be accountable to British Columbians through regularly reporting on all our activities. The government has made significant progress in its efforts to transform our public institutions and make them more accountable to taxpayers.

Our key policy priorities recognize that good economic management is not an end in itself, but is a mechanism to allow families to prosper. This report identifies areas where British Columbia is performing well. The document also identifies current opportunities and challenges, and lays out strategies and actions being undertaken by various ministries of government.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Government of British Columbia continues to be dedicated to ensuring services it provides to British Columbians are well managed, and are consistent with its goals and objectives. A critical component of government accountability is the requirement to publish regular, informative reports. This report delivers on that requirement.

The *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* requires each ministry to prepare a three-year service plan outlining its goals, objectives, performance measures and targets. Provisions of this Act also require government and Ministers to table annual reports by August 31 of each year comparing actual results against the government's three-year Strategic Plan and Ministry Service Plans. This Annual Report compares the government's performance against performance measures and strategic actions outlined in the British Columbia Government 2003/04 - 2005/06 Strategic Plan. Several reliable third party data sources are used for the measures within this report, including: Statistics Canada, BC Stats, provincial ministries and agencies, and the BC Progress Board.

We will continue to refine our annual Strategic Plan reporting in future years. We have made every effort to ensure the Government's Annual Report is a user-friendly document that fulfills this government's commitment to transparency and accountability. Evaluation in this report is undertaken on a "whole of government" basis. Individual Ministries are responsible for reporting on their specific outputs. The government's Annual Strategic Plan Report serves as the umbrella document for individual ministry reports published concurrently with this document.

TIMELINESS OF MEASURES

Measuring progress can be challenging for a variety of reasons. Current data is not always available in each performance category. For some of the 32 performance measures in this report, the most recent data available are for time periods prior to the 2003/04 fiscal year, and may not reflect progress made over the last twelve months.

Some of governments' goals may take several years to accomplish, while others may be affected by changes in national and global circumstances. Nevertheless, it is important to set benchmarks for future progress. On balance, the government continues to make significant progress in achieving its goals and objectives.

SELECTION OF MEASURES

The performance measures included in this report fall into three categories:

OUTPUT/WORKLOAD INDICATORS

These indicators report units produced or services provided by a program. Workload measures indicate the amount of work performed (input) or the amount of services provided. An example of an output indicator is the proportion of small claims cases settled through out of court mediation in the Court Mediation Program.

OUTCOME/EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

These measures are designed to report the results (including quality) of the service. Effectiveness measurement examines how well government is meeting the public purpose it intends to fulfill. In other words, effectiveness refers to the degree to which services are contributing to the needs and desires of a community. It encompasses both quantity and quality aspects of a service. An example of an outcome indicator is the improving health of a particular population.

EFFICIENCY/COST-EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

Efficiency measurement reports the ratio of the quantity of the service provided to the cost required to produce the service.

PROGRESS REPORT ON GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC ACTIONS

The assessment of progress for 2003/04 against the actions set out in the Government's Strategic Plan 2003/04 - 2005/06 covers three main categories. These are:

- Action achieved
- Action on track to being achieved
- Action commenced

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE 2003/04 STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

British Columbia is a prosperous and just province whose citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future.

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY: to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair and balanced

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: to implement affordable public policies

ACCOUNTABILITY: to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and credibility of government

RESPECT: to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully

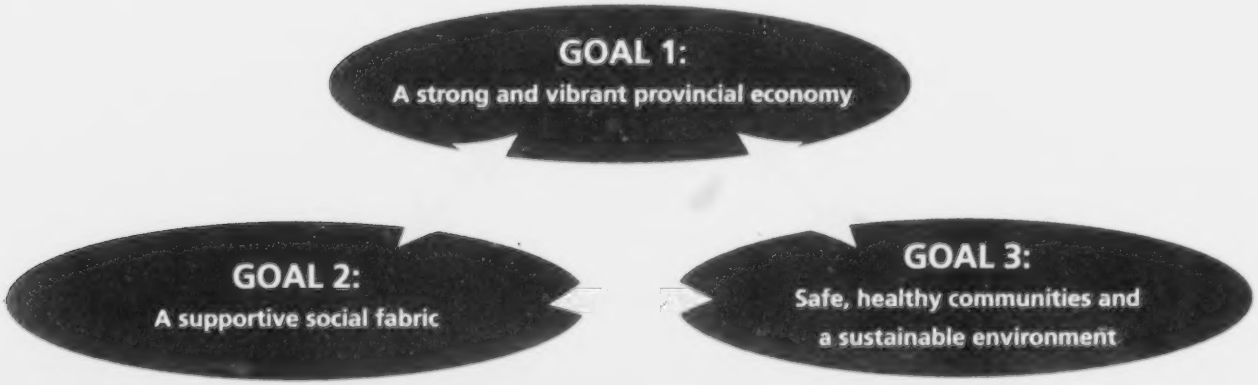
CHOICE: to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination

In keeping with government's vision and values, three strategic goals have been identified. These goals are:

- *A strong and vibrant provincial economy*
- *A supportive social fabric*
- *Safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment.*

VISION

British Columbia is a prosperous and just province whose citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future



MANAGEMENT THEMES FOR GOVERNMENT

Government is innovative, enterprising, results-oriented and accountable

This Report is structured around the three strategic goals of government. It outlines government's major public policy commitments and actions and reports on progress toward achieving these goals in 2003/04. Progress is achieved through the implementation of a wide range of policies, programs and legislation throughout government. There is a significant interrelationship between the goals, objectives and performance measures in each section of this report. For example, a strong economy supports the government's ability to deliver social services, and environmental sustainability supports a healthy citizenry.

A STRONG AND VIBRANT PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

GOAL 1

British Columbia has a long history of prosperity and leadership. However, the 1990s were a decade of decline for the province, where British Columbia fell far short of being the leading economic performer in Canada. We want to regain our rightful leadership position within Canada and return this province to prosperity. Government has laid the foundation for sustained economic vitality, and the private sector has responded with new investment and confidence. Our economic recovery is underway, as evidenced by the data and actions outlined in this section. New jobs and economic opportunity are the key to prosperity for British Columbia's families.

OBJECTIVES & KEY MEASURES

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A SKILLED WORKFORCE

MEASURE

PERCENTAGE OF THE WORKFORCE WITH A POST-SECONDARY CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA OR DEGREE

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the proportion of British Columbia's workforce (all ages) whose highest level of educational attainment is completion of a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree program, whether completed in British Columbia or in another jurisdiction.

IMPORTANCE:

This measure reflects British Columbia's ability to develop and maintain a strong and vibrant economy. A post-secondary education provides a workforce with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and maintain a competitive edge in the global economy. It also helps attract investment which, in turn, creates jobs requiring skilled workers.

TARGET

Increase percentage from the 2001 baseline of 51% to 54% in 2005/06

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
49.8%	2000
51.0%	2001
51.0%	2002
52.0%	2003[1]

MEASURE

PERCENTAGE OF THE WORKFORCE COMPRISING PERSONS EMPLOYED IN NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

DESCRIPTION:

The percentage of total employed persons in British Columbia who work in professional and technical occupations in the sciences, including physical and life sciences, engineering and architecture.

IMPORTANCE:

This indicator reflects the degree to which British Columbia employs, attracts and retains people with the knowledge and skills necessary for innovation. A certain critical mass of knowledgeable workers is necessary to support research and development within centres of excellence, and will affect business location decisions of companies.

TARGET

Increase percentage from 2001 baseline of 6.1% to 7.0% in 2005/06

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
6.3%	2000
6.1%	2001
5.9%	2002
6.2%	2003

[1] This measure was broadened in the 2003/04 Strategic Plan to be a more comprehensive measure that considers the percentage of the workforce with a post-secondary diploma, certificate or degree. The baseline, target, and results now reflect the inclusion of post-secondary degree results. The 2002/03 Annual Strategic Plan Report and 2002/03 Strategic Plan measured only the percentage of the workforce with a post-secondary diploma or certificate.

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A SKILLED WORKFORCE

A highly skilled workforce is necessary to ensure British Columbia's economy is competitive with other jurisdictions. University and vocational training credentials provide a key indication of our province's pool of skilled and productive workers available to employers. Higher levels of education attainment also generally provide citizens with higher earnings and better employment than those without higher levels of education. Overall, British Columbia's skilled workforce measures improved in the 2003/04 fiscal year.

Both measures identified under Objective A, "British Columbia will have a Skilled Workforce" are long-term targets that are affected by a variety of factors, not all of which are directly related to government policy or service delivery. For example, the percentage of the workforce with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree measure includes the number of new certificate, diploma and degree graduates produced in British Columbia and elsewhere who are in the workforce in British Columbia. British Columbia's performance will be affected by a number of factors, including: the total number of persons in the workforce with certificates, diplomas or degrees gained or lost through inter-provincial and international migration; the growth of the overall workforce; and, the age composition and differential growth of the workforce between the various categories of educational attainment.

The percentage of the workforce with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree in British Columbia rose to 52 per cent in 2003 from 51 per cent in 2002. The overall British Columbia workforce grew by 2.1 per cent in 2003. Faster growth in the workforce of persons with a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree caused the measure to increase. It is interesting to note that British Columbia and all other provinces except Alberta experienced an improvement in this measure over 2002 results. The British Columbia government is continuing efforts to achieve its long-term goal of a skilled workforce. Recently, the government announced 25,000 new post-secondary student spaces by 2010 to deal with current access challenges and to improve the skill level of British Columbia's workforce.

The percentage of the workforce employed in natural and applied sciences and related occupations grew in 2003. The number of workers employed in these occupations grew by 7.8 per cent between 2002 and 2003, compared to growth in total employment of 2.5 per cent. As a result, the percentage of the workforce in this occupational group rose. Strong employment growth in natural and applied science occupations was driven by above average employment growth in the professional, scientific and technical services and manufacturing industries in 2003.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL HAVE A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

MEASURE

REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) PER CAPITA

DESCRIPTION:

Economic growth (i.e., the change of real GDP per capita) is a key measure of economic prosperity, expressed in terms of constant dollar output (goods and services produced) per person. GDP is the value added to the economy by current productive activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents. The BC Progress Board has set a target for us of 1st or 2nd place in Canada by 2010.

IMPORTANCE:

The growth rate of real GDP per capita is an effective measure of changes in the overall prosperity of a jurisdiction and its population. Increased growth in real GDP per capita is associated with higher levels of purchasing power, real personal income, and real wages and salaries.

TARGET

By 2005/06, place 5th in Canada for the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita from a 2001 baseline of 10th in Canada

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
10th (-1.1%)	2001
8th(+1.5%)	2002
4th (+1.4%)	2003

MEASURE

REAL GDP PER HOUR WORKED IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR

DESCRIPTION:

This measure indicates the overall efficiency of our labour efforts. A common measure of productivity is real GDP per hour worked in the business sector. Thus, for every hour of labour in British Columbia, workers produce a given amount of GDP.

IMPORTANCE:

Growth in productivity is essential to improving income levels, public services and the standard of living. If productivity fails to increase, a jurisdiction's living standards will eventually decline.

TARGET

Increase ranking to 3rd place by 2005/06 from the 2001 baseline[2] of $31.93/hour ranked 4th in Canada

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
$30.74, ranked 5th in Canada	2000
$31.93, ranked 4th in Canada	2001
$32.60, ranked 4th in Canada	2002
$32.49/hour ranked 6th in Canada	2003

[2] 2001 baseline revised due to data revisions.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

MEASURE

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GROSS FIXED BUSINESS INVESTMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PROVINCIAL GDP

DESCRIPTION:

This measure reflects expenditure by business on machinery and equipment as well as building, engineering and residential housing construction.

IMPORTANCE:

Business investment is an important contributing factor to long-term economic growth and higher productivity. Growth in investment results in stronger, more competitive industries, which in turn results in income growth and wealth creation.

TARGET

Increase ranking to 3rd place by 2005/06 from the 2001 baseline[3] of 17.5 %, ranked 5th in Canada

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
16.3%, ranked 6th in Canada	2000
17.5% ranked 5th in Canada	2001
16.7%, ranked 6th in Canada	2002
17.7% ranked 6th in Canada	2003

[3] 2001 baseline revised due to data revisions.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL HAVE A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

The government is committed to building a strong and vibrant provincial economy and a higher standard of living for British Columbians.

Growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is a direct indicator of the strength of British Columbia's economy. British Columbia's level of real GDP per capita was the fourth highest in Canada in 2003. The province also placed fourth amongst the provinces for year over year growth. While real GDP per person declined from 2000 to 2001 due in large part to a slowing North American economy, it rebounded in 2002 and 2003 by 1.5 and 1.4 per cent respectively. In 2003, British Columbia's annual growth of real GDP per capita surpassed the national average for the first time in ten years.

Improvements in labour productivity – as measured by real GDP per hour worked in the business sector – is a key indicator of British Columbia's relative domestic and international competitive position. Labour productivity in British Columbia increased in 2002 over the 2001 baseline, but declined slightly in 2003. In 2003, real GDP per hour worked in the business sector was $32.49, the sixth highest in Canada. This represents a decrease from fourth place rank in 2002.

British Columbia ranked sixth among the provinces in terms of total business investment as a per cent of real GDP in 2003, unchanged from 2002. At 17.7 per cent of GDP, British Columbia's gross fixed capital formation (total business investment), matched the national average. This is the first time since 1997 that British Columbia has met or exceeded the national average on this indicator. British Columbia's better performance in 2003 was largely the result of heavy investment in the housing and energy sectors.

The work government has done to improve British Columbia's overall economic performance is bearing results. Through a number of new and continuing measures, the government is building on the solid foundation laid during our first three years of office. The Heartlands Economic Strategy and new partnership arrangements with First Nations throughout the province exemplify government's commitment to economic renewal for the entire province. Government has also focussed on transportation investments to unleash the potential of our resource and tourism industries. Early actions to reduce business and personal taxes have made the province more attractive to investors. And the government is on target to meet its commitment to reduce the province's regulatory burden by one-third.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL HAVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MEASURE

PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE 15 TO 64 AGE COHORT

DESCRIPTION:

The number of employed persons who are age 15 to 64 as a percentage of the total population who are aged 15 to 64 years old (those considered "working age"). The BC Progress Board has set a target for us of 1st or 2nd place in Canada by 2010.

IMPORTANCE:

The employment rate is one means of gauging the extent to which available labour is being utilized. In a growing economy, as employers increase production there will be demands for more workers, and the employment rate will increase. This measure also reflects the degree to which those of working age are active participants in the economy. A vibrant economy requires a pool of qualified and available workers. Economic growth and increases in production can create incentives for people to return to the labour market if they have withdrawn, thereby increasing the employment rate.

TARGET

Increase ranking to 1st or 2nd place in Canada by 2010 from the 2001 baseline of 69.1%, ranked 6th in Canada

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
70.2%, ranked 5th in Canada	2000
69.1%, ranked 6th in Canada	2001
69.1%, ranked 7th in Canada	2002
70.0% ranked 6th in Canada	2003

MEASURE

REAL PERSONAL DISPOSABLE INCOME PER CAPITA

DESCRIPTION:

Real personal disposable income per capita represents total income minus certain taxes and various fees paid to all levels of government expressed on a per person basis. It includes income earned by all residents of the province, regardless of where it originated. The BC Progress Board has set a target for us to place 1st or 2nd place in Canada by 2010.

IMPORTANCE:

Real personal disposable income per capita provides an accurate indication of individuals' spending power and standard of living.

TARGET

Increase ranking to 1st or 2nd place in Canada by 2010 from the 2001 baseline[4] of $19,547, ranked 3rd in Canada

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
$19,373, ranked 3rd in Canada	2000
$19,547, ranked 3rd in Canada	2001
$19,576, ranked 3rd in Canada	2002
$19,495, ranked 3rd in Canada	2003

[4] 2001 baseline revised due to data revisions.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL HAVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MEASURE

NET NEW JOBS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

DESCRIPTION:

Net new jobs in British Columbia means the year-over-year per cent change in the number of people employed in December of each year.

IMPORTANCE:

New job creation is an important measure of economic activity.

TARGET

Improve upon the 2002 baseline rank of 3rd place growth in Canada from the previous December[5]

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
3.0% decrease in new jobs, ranked 10th in Canada	2001
4.2% growth in new jobs created, ranked 3rd in Canada	2002
3.9% growth in new jobs created, ranked 1st in Canada	2003

[5] For greater clarity, this target has been re-worded since the 2003/04 Strategic Plan.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL HAVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Employment is the primary source of income for the majority of British Columbians, and is an important means for people to participate in community life. Employment growth is also a key indication of a vibrant and improving economy.

The percentage of the working population aged 15 to 64 has increased from 69.1 per cent in 2001 to 70.0 per cent in 2003, placing British Columbia sixth rank among the provinces. This marks an improvement from British Columbia's seventh place rank on this measure of employment during 2002. Employment growth started recovering in 2002 and has since outpaced population growth, resulting in an increase in the employment rate.

British Columbia posted the highest percentage growth in net new jobs in Canada during 2003, with the creation of 76,900 net new jobs. This is an improvement over the province's third place standing for the percentage of net new jobs created in 2002.

Another important indicator for British Columbians is real personal disposable income. While real personal disposable income per capita in British Columbia fell slightly in 2003, the province maintained its 2001 baseline ranking of third place relative to other provinces.

The government will continue to maintain public policies that enhance employment opportunities for British Columbians. Provincial personal income tax rates have been reduced by 25 per cent and the province has the lowest income tax rates in Canada for the bottom two tax brackets. Changes to the *Employment Standards Act* benefit both workers and employers by increasing flexibility in the workplace as well as helping to revitalize the economy by recognizing the needs and realities of modern workplaces. The government continues to focus on building strategies to grow key sectors of the economy.

D. GOVERNMENT WILL BE AFFORDABLE AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

MEASURE

BALANCE THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET

DESCRIPTION:

A balanced budget means that government spending does not exceed annual revenues. Under the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act*, government is required by law to balance the budget every year beginning in 2004/05.

IMPORTANCE:

Knowing that government finances are prudently managed is important to all British Columbians, as well as businesses located in the province. A balanced budget means that government debt will be held in check.

TARGET

Balanced annually beginning in 2004/05

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
Ahead of target	2002/03
Ahead of target	2003/04

MEASURE

TAXPAYER SUPPORTED DEBT IN RELATION TO SIZE OF GDP

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the net public debt burden as a proportion of GDP. Taxpayer supported debt includes government indirect debt, and the debt of Crown corporations and agencies that require a subsidy from the provincial government.

IMPORTANCE:

Payments to service taxpayer supported debt can consume a large portion of a jurisdiction's budget, thereby diminishing its capacity to provide public services. The debt burden is also an important indication of a jurisdiction's attractiveness for business investment.

TARGET

Annually reduce taxpayer supported debt to GDP ratio once a balanced budget is achieved in 2004/05

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
Ahead of target	2002/03
Ahead of target	2003/04

D. GOVERNMENT WILL BE AFFORDABLE AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

MEASURE

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures government expenditure as a proportion of GDP.

IMPORTANCE:

Research indicates that the relative size of the government sector may impact competitiveness.

TARGET

Reduce the level of provincial government expenditure from the 2002/03 level of 21.3% of GDP

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
21.5%	2001/02
20.5%	2002/03
19.7%[6]	2003/04

[6] The latest result for 2003/04 is a third quarter result.

D. GOVERNMENT WILL BE AFFORDABLE AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

The government of British Columbia is committed to responsible fiscal management. As a measure of government's commitment to strong fiscal management, the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* was enacted. In addition to requiring balanced budgets beginning in 2004/05, this Act applies salary penalties to Ministers who overspend their annual budgets.

The government's fiscal plan to balance the budget beginning in 2004/05 is on track. For the 2003/04 fiscal year, the deficit was $1.339 billion, $961 million ahead of the targeted budget deficit of $2.3 billion, making 2003/04 the third year in a row in which government has exceeded its targeted budget deficit.

While final results for 2004/05 will not be available for another year, government has updated its fiscal plan and extended it to 2006/07 with balanced budgets beginning in 2004/05. Based on current economic and revenue forecasts, and including a $100 million forecast allowance in 2004/05 for unexpected negative developments, the updated plan forecasts a $100 million surplus in 2004/05, followed by surpluses of $275 million and $300 million for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

The government continues to reduce the level of provincial government expenditure as a percentage of GDP. Building a stronger economy and responsible expenditure management have both worked to reduce the expenditure to GDP ratio. In addition, taxpayer-supported debt was 20.8 per cent of GDP in 2003/04, lower than both the forecast of 23.0 per cent in Budget 2003 and the actual of 21.5 per cent in 2002/03.

The three-year fiscal plan presented in Budget 2004 delivers on government's commitment to balance the budget in 2004/05, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, while protecting and enhancing health care and education funding.

INNOVATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
WORK WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	**Small Business and Economic Development**	ON TRACK: Changes made to the *Small Business Venture Capital Act* have increased the supply of venture capital for small business start-ups and expansions. Government has also implemented an "On the Ground" regional services plan enabling regional staff to work closely with communities to identify, promote and develop priority business opportunities. A fast-track process has been implemented to accelerate permits and approvals for capital investment projects.
SUPPORT A CULTURE OF INNOVATION THAT TRANSFERS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FROM THE RESEARCH STAGE THROUGH TO DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMERCIAL MARKETPLACE	**Small Business and Economic Development** Advanced Education	ON TRACK: Over $426.0 million in research funding has been leveraged for British Columbia from the federal government and other sources. Government has collaborated with British Columbia's public universities and industry to develop the 'Life Sciences Strategy' proposal for federal government funding. 'Leading Edge British Columbia,' was established with a mandate to enhance investment, partnerships, alliances and recruitment in British Columbia's technology sectors.
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY	**Small Business and Economic Development** All Ministries	ON TRACK: This long-term strategic action, led by MSBED, involves all ministries. Major initiatives undertaken in 2003/04, include plans to promote economic growth and diversification of British Columbia's economic base in film, tourism and ports, and the development of the 'Heartlands Economic Strategy'[7]

[7] http://www.gov.bc.ca/bcgov/content/ images/bc_heartlands_main_doc.pdf

INNOVATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
MAINTAIN A COMPETITIVE TAX REGIME	**Finance**	ON TRACK: In 2003, British Columbia had, and is forecast for 2004 to have, the lowest personal income tax rates for the bottom two tax brackets and the second lowest top marginal personal income tax rate in Canada.
MAKE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD RESPONSIVE TO WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS	**Skills Development and Labour**	ON TRACK: Bill 37, the *Skills Development and Labour Statutes Amendment Act*, 2003, was introduced in May, 2003 to amend the *Workers Compensation Act* ensuring surviving partners of workers who die from workplace injuries receive lifetime survivor benefits. Government continues to monitor progress made by the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) to ensure it is responsive to workers and employers.
BUILD THE CAPACITY FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA TO BE A NATIONAL LEADER IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH	**Advanced Education**	ON TRACK: In 2003, significant progress was made toward making British Columbia a world leader in research and innovation. Investments in research capacity at post-secondary institutions throughout British Columbia have been made through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund, the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, and Genome BC. Resulting research will lead to products and improvements in numerous areas including forestry, mining, fuel cells, computer technology, greenhouse gases, agriculture, aquaculture, and health.

INNOVATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
CONTINUE TO COORDINATE PROVINCIAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION ACROSS SECTORS	**Small Business and Economic Development**	ON TRACK: Participation in trade missions and provincial participation in key international events have promoted British Columbia as a place of investment opportunity. In 2003/04, trade missions were organized to China, India, Korea, Taiwan and the United States (Texas).
CONCLUDE TREATY AND OTHER ECONOMIC RELATED AGREEMENTS WITH FIRST NATIONS THAT PROMOTE INVESTMENT CERTAINTY AND INCREASE ACCESS TO CROWN LANDS AND RESOURCES	**Attorney General**	ON TRACK: Achievements in 2003/04 include ratification of four Agreements-in-Principle and approval of 59 projects promoting First Nations' participation in various sectors of the economy. These partnerships with First Nations will assist in achieving legal certainty over the land base, increasing access to Crown lands and resources, improving the Province's investment climate, and increasing employment and economic growth.
EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA	**All Ministries**	ON TRACK: This long-term strategy is ongoing. Achievements in 2003/04, include partnering with the federal government to: · Win the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games; · Establish a Pacific Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers; · Launch a joint immigration strategy; · Commit $500 million of federal/ provincial funding under the Canada/BC Infrastructure Program; · Implement a new Western Economic Partnership Agreement; and · Develop electronic health information solutions through the Canada Health Infoway Partnership.

INNOVATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPROVE KEY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUPPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE	**Transportation**	ON TRACK: In fiscal year 2003/04, $450 million was committed to approximately 250 transportation improvement projects directed at rehabilitation and capital expansion.
DEVELOP A PROVINCIAL HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY TO ENSURE BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS THE SKILLED WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT BRITISH COLUMBIA GROWTH	**Skills Development and Labour** Advanced Education Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services Health Services Human Resources Public Sector Employers' Council Small Business and Economic Development	ON TRACK: Government released the human resource strategy on May 3, 2004. Current labour market conditions and emerging skills shortages will continue to be monitored and analyzed. Government will continue to monitor the state of the labour market and youth employment on a monthly basis.
DEVELOP A NEW MODEL TO DELIVER INDUSTRY TRAINING IN THE PROVINCE WHICH WILL ALLOCATE RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE	**Advanced Education**	ON TRACK: The Industry Training Authority[8] (ITA), launched January 2004, is responsible for increasing the quality and quantity of training in British Columbia. This new industry training model was developed to increase access to training in trades and technical sectors and to address skill shortages around the province. ITA has commenced implementation and transition should be complete in 2004.

[8] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/industrytraining/

INNOVATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
DEVELOP FAIR AND BALANCED EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS THAT FOSTER MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS	**Skills Development and Labour**	ACHIEVED: Amendments to the *Employment Standards Act* have been completed The changes to employment standards legislation and policy helped fulfill government's commitment to give employees and employers greater flexibility in negotiating mutually beneficial relationships. Regulatory changes addressing the unique circumstances of specific sectors, such as high technology, aquaculture and agriculture, continued in 2003/04.

MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
ALL MINISTRIES WILL MEET THEIR BUDGET AND SERVICE PLAN TARGETS	**Finance** All Ministries	ON TRACK: The 2004/05 budget[9] tabled in February 2004, shows government is on track to meet its target of balanced budgets beginning in 2004/05. The outlook for the province's credit rating has also been upgraded from stable to positive by two major international rating agencies. Individual ministries have also made considerable progress toward meeting their Service Plan targets. Refer to Ministry Service Plan Reports[10] for further information.

[9] http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/
[10] http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/

MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
REFORM THE PROVINCE'S CROWN CORPORATIONS SO THAT THEY FOCUS ON PUBLIC SERVICES, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY	**Crown Agencies Secretariat** All Ministries	ON TRACK: All Crown corporations are implementing results of the Core Services Review regarding mandate shifts and corporate wind-ups. Shareholder letters of expectations reflecting the Core Services Review outcomes have been completed for five commercial Crown corporations and six taxpayer supported Crown corporations in 2003/04. These letters set out high-level agreement and understanding between the shareholder and the Board of Directors of the Crown corporation and cover key corporate mandates, governance issues, core services, public policy issues, strategic priorities and performance expectations.
INCREASE RECOVERIES OF REVENUES OWED TO GOVERNMENT AND STREAMLINE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE COLLECTIONS	**Provincial Revenue**	ON TRACK: Exceeded the revenue target in 2003/04. Streamlining efficiencies resulting from consolidation allowed the ministry to exceed its target for overdue accounts receivable collections in 2003/04. Negotiations with a private sector partner to further consolidate and streamline accounts receivable management and collections will be concluded in 2004/05.

MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN A RENEWED PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE	**Management Services** All Ministries	ON TRACK: This long-term initiative is ongoing. A "Corporate Human Resources Plan" has been implemented to guide public service renewal and to ensure alignment with overall government strategic direction. Individual ministries have human resource plans in place outlining specific initiatives for achieving these common goals. The BC Public Service Agency supports ministries in the implementation of these plans through the provision of programs, tools and advice.
ESTABLISH PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAM DELIVERY	**Finance** All Ministries	ON TRACK: Partnerships BC is now fully operational, providing advice and assistance in the development of capital infrastructure projects that combine the best of private sector innovation with public sector stewardship. Projects brought to market include the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre, Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement, Okanagan Lake Bridge, Sierra Yoyo Desan Road and the Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant.

MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT THROUGH E-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES	**Management Services (Chief Information Office)**[11]	ON TRACK: Short and long-term strategies to bring affordable high-speed internet[12] access to all British Columbia communities in partnership with the private sector were initiated in 2003/04. Expanded internet access will support literacy and tele-health initiatives and will promote economic development. In June 2003, the Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) Project Secretariat was established and seven ASD projects were put to tender. The Secretariat works with ministries and the private sector to design and implement new service delivery solutions - particularly in the information technology and business process areas.
CONTINUE TO EXPAND ONE-STOP PERMITTING AND LICENSING IN KEY SECTORS	**Small Business and Economic Development** Management Services All Ministries	ON TRACK: The Canada/BC Business Services Society provides one-stop access to business information and tools for small business start-up and expansion. In addition, the permitting system for film locations was streamlined. In 2003/04, Government Agents[13] added three new licensing services to enhance one-stop permitting and licensing.

[11] Due to ministry reorganization, the Ministry of Management Services is now accountable for this action.
[12] http://www.network.gov.bc.ca/
[13] http://www.governmentagents.gov.bc.ca

MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
CONTINUE TO STREAMLINE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATION AND REGULATION	**Small Business and Economic Development** All Ministries	ON TRACK: In 2003/04, government achieved over 80 per cent of its final deregulation target, with a reduction of over 100,000 unnecessary regulatory requirements.
CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED CROSS MINISTRY SERVICE DELIVERY PROJECTS IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE	**Management Services** Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services	ON TRACK: As of March 31, 2004, 42 Cross-Ministry Work Teams[14] were active in 57 communities across British Columbia. These teams work with ministries and other levels of government to identify opportunities for collaboration and integration of services to maximize convenience to the public.
CONTINUE TO REDUCE THE COST OF GOVERNMENT BY INCREASING EFFICIENCIES AND ELIMINATING DUPLICATION	**Management Services**	ON TRACK: In 2003/04, government fulfilled its commitment to create a shared services organization with the launch of Solutions BC. By introducing this leading-edge approach to reducing the cost of delivering internal government management services such as payroll, procurement and supply services, corporate accounting, and information technology, ministries can focus resources on core priorities.

[14] http://www.gov.bc.ca/mser /popt/service_delivery/

A SUPPORTIVE SOCIAL FABRIC

GOAL 2

There is a fundamental relationship between a vibrant economy and a healthy social fabric. Our economy will only be strong if our social fabric supports a healthy population and a skilled workforce. We will continue to facilitate governmental and institutional reforms needed to build and sustain high-performing health, education and social welfare systems. Our systems of justice must be accessible, efficient, fair and affordable. We will ensure our public institutions provide citizens with services that meet standards of highest quality and timeliness. We will also ensure that services are cost-effectively delivered by knowledgeable and competent staff and that they are responsive to individual choice. British Columbians will be treated with dignity and respect.

A. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE HEALTHY

MEASURE

THE RATE OF POTENTIAL YEARS OF LIFE LOST (PYLL) PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM ALL CAUSES OF PREMATURE DEATH

DESCRIPTION:

PYLL focuses on premature deaths – that is, deaths that occur in younger age groups that could have been prevented or postponed.

IMPORTANCE:

PYLL is an overall indicator of population health, as well as a measure of the effectiveness of preventive programs. PYLL considers deaths before age 75 and weights them by age. A person dying at age 25, for example, has lost 50 years of life (75 minus 25 equals 50 PYLL).

TARGET

Decrease the PYLL from the 1995-2000 average of 53.3/1,000 to 45/1,000 for 2001-05

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
51.1 per 1,000 pop.	5 year avg (2000)
49.2 per 1,000 pop.	5 year avg (2001)
47.6 per 1,000 pop.	5 year avg (2002)
46.3 per 1,000 pop.	5 year avg (2003)

MEASURE

THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL LIVE BIRTHS WEIGHING BELOW 2,500 GRAMS

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the percentage of all live births in British Columbia weighing less than 2,500 grams.

IMPORTANCE:

The low birth weight rate is a well-established indicator of child health. Newborns with a low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) are more likely to die during the first year of life. They are also more likely to have problems such as birth defects, illnesses and learning difficulties throughout childhood. It also reflects the health of women and their ability to achieve healthy pregnancies. A high rate of babies born with low birth weight may indicate that some women are not receiving optimal prenatal care, education, and support.

TARGET

Decrease the percentage of all live births weighing below 2,500 grams from the 2000 baseline of 5.14% to 5.0% between 2001-2005

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
5.14%	2000
4.97%	2001
5.27%	2002
5.28%	2003

A. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE HEALTHY

MEASURE

INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE VERSUS THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures infant mortality rates for Aboriginal people compared to infant mortality rates in the general public.

IMPORTANCE:

As a group, Aboriginal people have a level of health below that of the general population. Tracking infant mortality rates in the Aboriginal population and comparing them to the general population serves as an indicator of the overall health status of the Aboriginal population.

TARGET

The rate of infant mortality among the Status Indian population is equal to that of the general population of British Columbia by 2005/06

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
4.0:3.7	2000
4.3:4.0	2001
4.8:4.4	2002

A. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE HEALTHY

British Columbians are among the healthiest people in Canada. Early deaths, as measured by Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL), continue to decline steadily in this province. Significant improvements have been made in postponing most causes of death, with particular success in reducing early deaths from heart disease and unintentional injuries.

Much premature death is related to social and economic conditions. There is a correlation between performance indicators of education and employment and the overall health of our citizens. In general, when people are educated and employed, citizens are healthier and the rates of PYLL decrease. Government strategic actions to build a robust economy and deliver quality education, health and social services throughout the province will assist British Columbians' efforts to maintain good health. Government has identified as a priority the prevention and management of chronic diseases, along with supporting individuals' efforts to manage their own health.

Low birth weight is also a key indicator of health. While small variations occur year to year (5.1 per cent in 2000, 4.9 per cent in 2001, 5.27 per cent in 2002, 5.28 per cent in 2003), the rate of low birth weight babies in British Columbia has remained largely constant at approximately 5.0 per cent over the past 15 years. Generally, British Columbia has led the country with the lowest percentage of low birth weight babies and ranks among the best in the world when compared with member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Government is committed to maintaining the low rate of low birth weight babies in British Columbia. Poverty, low education levels and smoking during pregnancy can impact birth weights. Government strategies to deliver a consistent level and quality of education, health and social services throughout the province are designed to keep the population healthy. Additional efforts to enhance coordinated care networks, early childhood development and health promotion activities will also help meet the key objective of a healthy citizenry.

Infant mortality rates are also a key indicator of overall health status. Since 1990, the infant mortality rate for the Aboriginal (Status Indian) population in the province moved from a high of 15.6 per 1,000 live births in 1992, to a low of 4.0 in 2002. Over the past decade the gap between infant mortality rates in the Aboriginal population and the general (total) population has also been significantly reduced and almost eliminated. Similar to the general population, Aboriginal health status is primarily influenced by social and economic conditions. Government is committed to improving conditions for Aboriginal people and to providing appropriate health services. The government is engaging Aboriginal communities in planning health services to ensure the Aboriginal population has access to the services and information needed to continue to improve their overall health status.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE EDUCATED

MEASURE

THE PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION, AGED 25 TO 54, WHO HAVE COMPLETED A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the per cent of British Columbia's population aged 25 to 54 whose highest educational attainment is a university degree.

IMPORTANCE:

This indicator reflects the proportion of the prime working age population with a university degree. It reflects both the ability of the province to attract and retain persons with a university degree, which is greatly affected by net inter-provincial and international migration, and the number of university and university/college graduates who stay in British Columbia.

TARGET

By 2005/06 to rank 2nd in Canada for the percentage of the population, aged 25-54 who have completed a university education from the 2001 baseline rank of 4th place

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
20.1%, ranked 4th in Canada	2001
21.7%, ranked 2nd in Canada	2002
23.1%, ranked 2nd in Canada	2003

MEASURE

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO START GRADE 8 AND GRADUATE FROM GRADE 12 WITHIN 6 YEARS

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the total number of students in both the public and independent school system who start Grade 8 and graduate from Grade 12 within six years.

IMPORTANCE:

The secondary school completion rate is the most appropriate single performance of the provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 school system. The measure is important because in most cases high school completion is a requirement for entry to the workforce and/or post secondary education. The higher the proportion of students who complete secondary school, the better equipped our youth are for employment and for advanced education.

TARGET

Annual improvement from the 2000/01 baseline of 76%

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
76%	2000/01
77%	2001/02
79%	2002/03[15]

[15] Data for 2003/04 are not collected until the close of the school year, in this case June 2004. Results are tabulated over summer months and issued in the fall.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE EDUCATED

MEASURE

THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS IN GRADE 4 READING

DESCRIPTION:

The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in Grade 4 reading demonstrates ability in prescribed learning outcomes. These outcomes include: retrieving information, recognizing meaning, and interpreting and analyzing texts meeting the widely-held standard for Grade 4 learners.

IMPORTANCE:

The percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in Grade 4 reading is an important indicator measuring early success of the education system.

TARGET

Annual improvement from the 2000/01 baseline of 78%

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
78%	2000/01
80%	2001/02
77%	2002/03[16]

[16] Data for 2003/04 are not collected until the close of the school year, in this case June 2004. Results are tabulated over summer months and issued in the fall.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE EDUCATED

The quality of our educational institutions has a significant impact on the province's economic competitiveness and the quality of life for British Columbians. Graduating from secondary school and obtaining a university education are important indicators of future individual well-being. A post-secondary education prepares individuals to hold highly skilled, high value jobs. Access to our post-secondary system is essential to ensuring that British Columbians are able to obtain these skills.

In 2003, the percentage of the population aged 25 to 54 with a university education increased to 23.1 per cent, up from 21.7 per cent in 2002. Similar to performance indicators measuring other education outcomes, changes in the percentage of the population aged 25 to 54 who have completed a university education is driven by a variety of factors. The measure is affected by the number of degrees granted in British Columbia and the number of persons with university degrees gained through inter-provincial and international net migration. Overall the measure has continued an upward trend since 1990. In both 2002 and 2003, British Columbia ranked second among all provinces in this measure, with Ontario ranking first. The government will continue to implement programs aimed at improving access to degree level programs throughout the province. Recent examples include the decision to establish University of British Columbia (UBC) Okanagan, Simon Fraser University (SFU) Surrey, along with the creation of a special purpose university in Kamloops.

Successful completion of secondary school is also an important harbinger of future quality of life. Secondary school graduates are almost twice as likely to be gainfully employed as those who do not finish high school. Wages and salaries of high school graduates are generally substantially larger than those received by non-high school graduates. Given the importance of secondary school graduation in determining students' prospects later in life, the number of students who graduate from secondary school is an important indicator of the overall performance of our Kindergarten to Grade 12 educational institutions. The number of secondary school graduates improved in the 2002/03 fiscal year to 79 per cent, up from 77 per cent in 2001/02.

The Grade 4 student reading results declined slightly in 2002/03, while the four-year trend is stable. The government will continue to focus on improving the performance of our education system through performance agreements with school boards, monitoring school board performance, and ongoing publication of results.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A FAIR AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

MEASURE

PROPORTION OF SMALL CLAIMS CASES SETTLED THROUGH OUT-OF-COURT MEDIATION IN THE COURT MEDIATION PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

The number of small claims cases settled through out-of-court mediation in the Court Mediation Program.

IMPORTANCE:

An increasing proportion of small claims cases settled through out-of-court dispute resolution mechanisms means fewer cases are going to court and are being resolved through less costly means. This leaves more resources available for cases that must be resolved within the courtroom. An increase in this measure reflects growing public willingness to use faster and less-costly out-of-court alternatives.

TARGET

Achieve and maintain an average of 60% between 2003/04 – 2005/06 from the 2000/01 baseline of 58%

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
57%	2001/02
50%	2002/03
56%	2003/04

MEASURE

PROPORTION OF ADULT OFFENDERS WHO DO NOT RE-OFFEND FOR TWO YEARS FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS SUPERVISION

DESCRIPTION:

This measure is the proportion of adult offenders who do not re-offend for two years following Corrections supervision.

IMPORTANCE:

This measure assesses the overall effectiveness of the justice system in managing adult offenders and their rehabilitation.

TARGET

Increase the proportion of adult offenders who do not re-offend from the 2001/02 baseline of 69% to 70% in 2005/06 and maintain this level

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
69%	2001/02
70%	2002/03
70%	2003/04

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A FAIR AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

MEASURE

MEDIAN NUMBER OF DAYS TO DISPOSITION FROM FIRST APPEARANCE FOR CRIMINAL CASES (INCLUDES QUASI-CRIMINAL MATTERS)

DESCRIPTION:

Based on courtroom procedures and document handling, this indicator tracks the median time required to process documents related to court events in a given case. It represents all offences heard in provincial criminal court, including traffic violations and violations of municipal and federal statutes, offences covered by the *Criminal Code of Canada*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and other offences arising from violations of provincial statutes.

IMPORTANCE:

The measurement of time and court events from case commencement to disposition broadly indicates system efficiency and effectiveness. Unacceptable delays can be grounds for dismissing charges.

TARGET

By 2005/06, achieve and maintain an average of 44 days from the 2000/01 baseline of 46 days

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
46 days	2000/01
44 days	2002/03
51 days	2003/04

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A FAIR AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE

Government's objective is to ensure all people have access to the justice system. The timeliness of court procedures is an indicator of the accessibility of justice. The median number of days to disposition in 2003/04 increased over that observed for 2002/03. Most large criminal cases require more appearances to consider all relevant legal issues and technical evidence involved. At the same time, less complex cases are being processed faster and with fewer court appearances thereby allowing more time and resources to be spent where they are required. New criminal case flow management rules intended to increase procedural efficiencies – such as lowering the average number of appearances required to complete cases and reducing the average number of days to completion -- have now been implemented in all 13 Judicial Districts in British Columbia. Government continues to monitor the effects of these new rules and procedures in consultation with the Provincial Court.

Small claims settlement rates are dependent upon a number of factors, including the complexity of cases, overall economic performance, and new legislation. In 2003, a new Small Claims Mediation Rule was introduced, replacing a practice direction issued by the Court. Once litigants and lawyers become accustomed to new practice directives under the new Small Claims Mediation Rule, the program will likely move closer to a settlement rate of 60 per cent. Government will continue to support out-of-court mediation policies and services. For instance, mediation for small claims construction cases is now mandatory. As well, a 'Notice to Mediate' process can now be used by one disputant to compel the other party or parties to mediate. The government will support and fund high-quality training for mediators, a strategy that also increases the number of qualified mediators available for small claims cases.

D. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

MEASURE

PERCENTAGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S POPULATION RECEIVING INCOME ASSISTANCE

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the percentage of British Columbia's population receiving income assistance. It is calculated as the number of individuals receiving income assistance divided by the total provincial population. Results shown are as of fiscal year end (March 31).

IMPORTANCE:

A lower percentage of the population receiving income assistance implies sound policy and a stronger economy with more people working. The children of working parents are more likely to complete high school, participate in the labour market, and attain higher levels of education.

TARGET

By 2005/06, reduce the percentage of the population receiving income assistance from the 2001/02 baseline of 5.8% to 3.75%

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
5.8%	2001/02
4.3%	2002/03
3.9%	2003/04

MEASURE

PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING TEMPORARY INCOME ASSISTANCE WHO ARE CAPABLE OF FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

DESCRIPTION:

Temporary income assistance is provided to eligible persons who are expected to achieve independence through employment. The indicator is measured by calculating the ratio of temporary assistance recipients to the total number of individuals receiving income assistance. Results shown are as of the fiscal year end (March 31).

IMPORTANCE:

Increasing the number of income assistance clients who find employment is critical to the government's goal to help British Columbians be self-sufficient. A lower percentage of income assistance clients who have employment obligations shows more people are leaving income assistance and that fewer people who can work require income assistance. By reducing the number of clients receiving temporary assistance, the government ensures that it is providing help to those most in need.

TARGET

Reduce the percentage of persons receiving income assistance who are capable of financial independence through employment from the 2001/02 baseline of 76% to 52% by 2005/06

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
76%	2001/02
64%	2002/03
52%	2003/04

D. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

MEASURE

SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE (MEASURE UNDER DEVELOPMENT)

DESCRIPTION:

Under development

D. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT

Self-sufficiency is an important indicator of community and individual health and well-being. Government has a responsibility to support individuals and families in achieving their social and economic potential. As part of this responsibility, government provides income support to those in need and helps people find sustainable employment. Jurisdictions around the world have been exploring ways to reduce dependence on income assistance for those able to work, while at the same time ensuring support is provided to those in need.

Government gauges its success in achieving this goal by measuring income assistance dependence for the total population and for those capable of financial independence through employment. During fiscal year 2003/04, 3.9 per cent of the provincial population was on income assistance, down from 4.3 per cent in 2002/03. The government has achieved its target of reducing the percentage of persons who, receiving income assistance, are capable of financial independence to 52 per cent from the 2001/02 baseline of 76 per cent.

It is difficult to make inter-provincial comparisons of income assistance because programs differ by province. The self-sufficiency measures have been refined in the government's 2003/04 Strategic Plan to include the development of a measure of self-sufficiency for Aboriginal people. Work to develop an effective measure is now underway.

FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
INCREASE FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLING	**Education**	ACHIEVED: Last year, 39 additional choice programs[17] were introduced in British Columbia schools. Choice programs (or schedules offered in schools not generally available in typical neighbourhood schools) include sports academies, traditional schools and balanced calendars.
INCREASE FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS	**Advanced Education**	ON TRACK: Government funds the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer, which facilitates admission, articulation and transfer agreements among public post-secondary institutions. In November 2003, the *Degree Authorization Act* was brought into force, expanding degree granting opportunities at both public and private post-secondary institutions in the province. Other initiatives are underway to increase student enrolment in online learning and distance education through BC Campus.

[17] http://gww.bcedintra.gov.bc.ca/policy/school_choice/prelim.htm

FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
FACILITATE A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO ENSURE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY AND COST-EFFECTIVE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES	**Advanced Education** Children and Family Development Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services Education Health Services Human Resources	ON TRACK: Government has enhanced health, education and social services and implemented initiatives to be more responsive to community needs. Among the initiatives: • Regional health authorities have continued to redesign services to meet the needs of patients within their regions; • Post-secondary investment across the province has been targeted to meet government's economic and social priorities. Growth will be targeted to ensure British Columbia has the skilled professionals required to meet health, social service and business sector needs (including the 2010 Olympics, oil and gas, mining and aerospace); • Human Resource clients in all five regions have office, telephone and electronic access to a consistent level of service; and, • Plans are underway to transform child welfare services to enable the regions to be more responsive to their communities and to ensure more culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal communities.

FLEXIBILITY AND CHOICE

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
EXPAND THE EARLY USE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESSES FOR CIVIL DISPUTES AND FAMILY JUSTICE ISSUES	**Attorney General**	ACHIEVED: Government increased the number of mediators on the BC Mediator Roster from 193 to 212. A Family Mediation Practicum Project was established to allow newly trained mediators to gain experience by working under the supervision of more experienced mediators. Child protection cases referred to mediation increased by more than 25 per cent and additional child protection mediation services were established in the Fraser Region. The average number of notices served per month under the Notice to Mediate (Motor Vehicle), increased from 155 to 194 indicating an expanded use of alternative dispute resolution processes.
PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED FUNDING, SERVICE AND SUPPORT OPTIONS TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES	**Children and Family Development**	ACHIEVED: As of December 2003, over 2,100 families of children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder[18] are receiving direct funding to purchase treatments and interventions to alleviate conditions of the disorder.
PROVIDE GREATER CHOICE OF LIVING OPTIONS FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE	**Health Services**	COMMENCED: In partnership with Health Authorities, a major redesign to expand the range of home and community care services has begun, including the creation of new assisted living residences, enhanced home care and palliative services, and the development of acute care service alternatives.

[18] http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/index.htm

ACCESS

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
ENHANCE FULL-SERVICE FAMILY PRACTICE TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF A CONSISTENT LEVEL AND QUALITY OF COORDINATED MEDICAL AND RELATED SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE	**Health Services**	ON TRACK: Heath authorities are implementing a range of initiatives to support more comprehensive and accessible primary health care services. Initiatives include: • Primary health care organizations; • Networks linking family practices; • Community health centres; • Shared care arrangements providing family practices with specialist consultation and expertise; • Nurse managed care in regions with limited access to physicians; and • Chronic disease management.
CREATE A SUSTAINABLE CHILD CARE SYSTEM THAT MEETS DIVERSE FAMILY NEEDS, SUPPORTS FAMILIES' EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT GOALS, AND FOSTERS THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** **Children and Family Development** **Health Services** **Human Resources**	ON TRACK: All major components to support a sustainable childcare system are in place. Monitoring of the childcare system will be ongoing and enhancements to the system will be made as resources permit.

ACCESS

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
ENSURE DELIVERY OF A CONSISTENT LEVEL AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE	**Advanced Education** **Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** **Education** **Health Services** **Human Resources**	ON TRACK: Major initiatives that ensure quality and consistency of education, health and social services include: • Accountability Framework[19] for Post-Secondary Education System supports and institutional accountability for the quality, relevance and comprehensiveness of the education delivered; • Post-secondary Student Outcome Surveys provide data used by institutions to ensure programs remain relevant and of high quality; • Aboriginal community capacity projects; • School District Accountability Framework including contracts for school districts to improve student achievement; • Foundation Skills Assessment data; • Performance contracts and performance reporting for health authorities; and, • Access to Human Resources services through regional offices, telephone and the internet.

[19] http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/accountability/

ACCESS

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
ENHANCE ACCESS FOR THE NUMBER AND INCREASINGLY DIVERSE ARRAY OF POST-SECONDARY LEARNERS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE	**Advanced Education**	ON TRACK: Expanding post-secondary access by 25,000 seats between now and 2010 increases access and opportunity for students. In addition, government contributes to maintaining Aboriginal student participation in post-secondary education and increasing the number of student spaces in all developmental programs (i.e., English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, and Adult Special Education). Government also contributes funding for immigrant programs and adaptations for the learning impaired. Funding has doubled for the Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Program.
INCREASE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO STREAMLINE COURT PROCESSES AND FACILITATE ACCESS TO JUSTICE	**Attorney General**	ON TRACK: A provincial automated case management system for civil court cases will be implemented as the first electronic service delivery system used in civil court. A previously completed project has been expanded by increasing the number of videoconferencing units in use in courthouses and correctional facilities from 65 to 70.
ENSURE CRIMINAL CASES MOVE THROUGH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN A TIMELY AND EFFICIENT MANNER	**Attorney General**	ON TRACK: With the assistance of the Justice Review Task Force Working Group, government is developing new and better ways to address chronic re-offenders, mentally disordered offenders, Aboriginal, and young offenders. Communities will be consulted through public forums. Government is facilitating diversion of appropriate cases to alternative measures programs. Initiatives to reduce backlogs in the Vancouver Provincial Court are in progress.

ACCESS

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
ENCOURAGE WORKPLACES TO IMPROVE SAFETY PRACTICES AND SEEK IMPROVEMENTS FROM EMPLOYERS AND INDUSTRIES WITH POOR SAFETY RECORDS	**Skills Development and Labour** **Public Safety and Solicitor General**	ON TRACK: Government is currently considering the report of the Forest Safety Task Force which was established to address the unacceptable rate of death and serious injury in the forest industry. To promote public safety, British Columbia harmonized with NAFTA guideline requirements for commercial vehicle operators to complete driver medical examinations more frequently.
DEVELOP REGULATORY LEGISLATION THAT OFFERS PROTECTION FOR CONSUMERS AND FLEXIBILITY FOR CONSUMER INDUSTRIES	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	ACHIEVED: Three new pieces of legislation were introduced in March 2004 to strengthen and modernize consumer protection and to create a better environment for business: the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act* consolidated six consumer statutes, providing clearer and consistent language, reducing overlap, and addressing new areas of consumer law, such as Internet sales; the *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority Act* established an independent authority responsible for a range of licensing, inspections, investigations and enforcement, and will move regulation of businesses to a full cost-recovery model; and, The *Cremation, Internment and Funeral Services Act* provides greater clarity, more accurate definitions and a process for the establishment, operation, and closure of cemeteries and crematoria.

RESULTS-ORIENTED AND EVIDENCE BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPLEMENT AND MANAGE PERFORMANCE-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENTS FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED AGENCIES INCLUDING HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES	**Advanced Education** **Children and Family Development** **Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** **Education** **Health Services** **Human Resources**	ON TRACK: Performance agreements have been developed with each Health Authority defining expectations and measures for three fiscal years. An Accountability Framework has been developed and implemented for the public school system and the public post-secondary education system to improve system-level management and accountability in education. The recently established Employment and Assistance Appeal Tribunal provides an open and fair process that ensures Ministry accountability for its decisions.
IMPROVE THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED CHRONIC DISEASES	**Health Services**	ON TRACK: Government is working with Health Authorities and physicians to help individuals maintain independence and remain as healthy as possible through prevention, early detection, and management of chronic conditions. A number of initiatives are underway, initially focusing on improved care for people living with diabetes, congestive heart failure, depression, asthma, arthritis, kidney disease, chronic pulmonary obstructive disease and hypertension.

ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
ENSURE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE MORE INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING THEIR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH, EDUCATION, FITNESS, SAFETY AND HEALTH CARE NEEDS	**Advanced Education** **Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** **Education** **Health Services** **Public Safety and Solicitor General**	ACHIEVED: Numerous initiatives are underway to assist individuals, including: • The on-line Women's Service Directory[20] • Annual reviews[21] of up to 20 school districts designed to provide feedback and recommendations to the district, the Ministry, and the public regarding school board work in improving student achievement • Labour Market Information products support students making informed career and post-secondary education choices • The BC HealthGuide and NurseLine Program[22] • Support for victims of crime through information services including VictimLINK, a multilingual 24-hour help and information line – and through the continuing development of guidelines, training tools and practice tips for improving victim safety.

[20] http://www.mcaws.gov.bc.ca/womens_services/directory/index.htm
[21] http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/review/
[22] http://www.bchealthguide.org/kbaltindex.asp

ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
PROVIDE SUPPORTS AND INCENTIVES TO ENHANCE LOCAL RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY AND FAMILY NEEDS	**Children and Family Development** **Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** **Education** **Health Services** **Human Resources**	ON TRACK: New community-based alternative dispute resolution options for children and families have been implemented. Alternative government responses to child protection investigations have been introduced that utilize family and community-based options while continuing to protect vulnerable children and youth. $24.7 million has been reinvested in family development and youth services with priority given to services for Aboriginal people. Legislative changes were made to allow open education district boundaries, to support flexibility and choice for students and their families. Human Resource's Emergency Services[23] (ESS) program provides individuals and families with short-term disaster assistance for food, clothing, lodging, registration, emotional support and information.

[23] http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/ess/

ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
PROVIDE SUPPORTS AND INCENTIVES TO ENGAGE IN PROGRAMS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTION OF RACISM AND VIOLENCE	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** **Health Services**	ON TRACK: Government has launched initiatives on chronic disease, injury, tobacco, alcohol and drug use prevention, along with programs for physical activity and healthy eating to encourage healthy lifestyles. The Multicultural Advisory Council has been appointed to provide advice on issues regarding multiculturalism and anti-racism.
ENHANCE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** Advanced Education Children and Family Development Education Human Resources	ON TRACK: Government is providing more culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal people, increasing community involvement, and fostering responsibility by keeping and connecting Aboriginal children with their communities. Government is also continuing with overall efforts toward community-based service delivery. Two new Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements were signed in 2003/04, with another 28 Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements in progress.

ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORTS AND SERVICES WITHIN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES THAT ADDRESS THEIR UNIQUE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** Advanced Education Education Health Services Human Resources	ON TRACK: The BC First Nations Health Handbook has been developed to provide information on culturally relevant health services for First Nations, as well as advice for health professionals serving First Nations individuals and communities. Government has funded 37 Aboriginal language preservation projects. FirstVoices.ca[24], a web-based Aboriginal language preservation tool, was launched and implemented in 15 communities. Four Aboriginal Employment Partnership Initiative Agreements have been signed and a total of seven agreements are being implemented. Through the First Citizens Fund, over 350 jobs have been sustained or created, 149 Aboriginal businesses have been sustained or started and 110 students have been financially supported.
PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS TO MOVE EMPLOYABLE BC EMPLOYMENT AND ASSISTANCE CLIENTS INTO THE LABOUR MARKET	**Human Resources**	ACHIEVED: Employment programs are available to help clients find and sustain employment. Individualized employment plans facilitate discussion between clients and staff, and outline employment-related obligations for clients to seek employment. These obligations can include referral to job placement programs and specific training for employment.

[24] www.firstvoices.ca

ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPLEMENT NEW EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT-RELATED OR VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES AS THEY ARE ABLE.	**Human Resources**	ACHIEVED: The Employment Program for Persons with Disabilities has been implemented to assist Persons with Disabilities build work-related skills and enhance their involvement in volunteer or paid employment.
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH POST-SECONDARY AND CONTINUING EDUCATION TO HELP CITIZENS OBTAIN THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT WILL HELP THEM CONTRIBUTE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.	**Advanced Education**	ON TRACK: The government has committed to provide 25,000 additional post-secondary seats by 2010. This growth includes, among others, 5,500 new spaces in the Okanagan, the establishment of a new UBC campus in the Okanagan, a new Okanagan College, 3,000 spaces at a new Simon Fraser University Campus in Surrey, and 3,000 new spaces through the formation of a new special purpose university in the Thompson-Cariboo.

SAFETY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
LOWER THE RISKS OF RE-OFFENDING BY USING RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	ON TRACK: Risk needs assessments continue to guide case management plans for offenders and assist in determining offenders' programming and supervision needs. Ongoing peer review of Community Risk Needs Assessments is being expanded to include other quality management objectives aimed at improving case management practices. Research has been completed on the spousal assault risk assessment instrument and government continues to participate in a national study of sex offender risk assessment instruments.
ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND SAFE INDUSTRY PRACTICES	**Skills Development and Labour** Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services Public Safety and Solicitor General	ON TRACK: The technical safety regulatory regime has been updated with the implementation of the *Safety Standards Act*. A number of strategies have been implemented including the Responsible Gambling Strategy and the Illegal Gambling Strategy. Regulatory changes have been completed to ensure appropriate trade practices occur between liquor suppliers and licensed establishments.

SAFE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 3

Sustained economic competitiveness depends upon British Columbians maximizing the benefits from natural resources, maintaining environment quality, and enhancing the health of communities. Our province is known for its spectacular scenery and natural environment. At the same time, our land base and natural resources underpin the economy and our local communities and, through resource revenues, contribute to our supportive social fabric. Government will maximize the value of these public assets by balancing protection of the physical environment with sustainable economic activity in our natural resource sector.

The health of our communities is very important for economic prosperity, our individual well-being, and the sustainability of our physical environment. Government will promote communities in which diversity is valued and British Columbians have a sense of personal and public safety. The provincial government is also committed to increasing local autonomy

OBJECTIVES & KEY MEASURES

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SAFE COMMUNITIES

MEASURE

THE NUMBER OF PERSONAL AND PROPERTY CRIMES KNOWN TO POLICE PER 1,000 POPULATION

DESCRIPTION:

The personal (violent) and property crime rate is based on the number of reported crimes per 1,000 people. Personal (violent) crime includes all degrees of murder, assault, sexual assault, robbery and abduction. Property crime includes incidents known to police involving unlawful acts, with the intent of gaining property, but which do not involve the threat or use of violence.

IMPORTANCE:

The personal (violent) and property crime rate is used as a standard indicator of community safety and security. It can also indicate social and economic problems. Rising crime rates can reflect a lack of employment opportunities, inadequate education or social dysfunction.

TARGET

Decrease the number of personal and property crimes from the 2001 baseline[25] of 77.2 per 1,000 population

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
77.2 per 1,000 population	2001
77.6 per 1,000 population	2002
81.3 per 1,000 population	2003

MEASURE

THE PERCENTAGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS REPORTING SATISFACTION WITH THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY FROM CRIME

Data for this measure will not be available until 2005 when results of the 2004 Statistics Canada General Social Survey are released

TARGET

Improve the percentage of British Columbians reporting satisfaction with their personal safety from crime from the 2001/02 baseline of 84% to 88% in 2005/06

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
84%	2001/02

[25] 2001 baseline revised due to data revisions.

A. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SAFE COMMUNITIES

Community safety has an important influence on an individual's health and welfare. An important indicator of community safety is the assessment of crime levels – both personal and property. Personal and property crime rates indicate trends in crime, and provide an indirect measure of police workload and the safety of individuals in their communities.

The number of reported personal and property crimes increased between 2000 and 2003. When the rates for personal and property crimes are viewed separately, the increase in the crime rate is put into proper context. Statistics Canada reports that crimes against the person actually decreased in British Columbia from 1.26 reported crimes per 1,000 population in 2,000 to 1.23 per 1,000 in 2001. Over the same time period, property crime rose from 6.4 reported crimes per 1,000 in 2000 to 6.5 per 1,000 in 2001, due mainly to an increase in motor vehicle thefts. In 2002, the personal crime rate decreased again to 1.21 reported crimes per 1,000 and the property crime rate rose slightly to 6.5 per 1,000. Putting these figures into a larger context, British Columbia's overall crime rate is significantly lower than the early 1990s, although it has increased since 2001.

Crime is a complex problem and criminal behaviour is a highly complex phenomenon involving many different individual and socio-economic factors. Success in reducing crime rates and/or recidivism is not under the exclusive control of government. Crime rates are influenced by many factors including changes in public attitudes on reporting crime, the impact of new anti-crime initiatives such as new legislation, policies or enforcement practices, and demographic changes such as the ageing of a population.

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL PRACTISE SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

MEASURE

THE PERCENTAGE OF LAND AND WATER TENURE APPLICATIONS PROCESSED WITHIN ESTABLISHED TURNAROUND TIMES AS AN INDICATOR OF QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY

DESCRIPTION:

Land and water tenure application processing time statistics are calculated to include the total number of days to process the tenure applications, but exclude time spent waiting for the conclusion of external (to government) processes that may be required to complete the application process.

IMPORTANCE:

Land and Water BC promotes economic development through timely access for key sectors and clients to tenures and licences. The agency has an investment model that accelerates sales and revenues, while timely access to Crown land and water resources enables economic growth.

TARGET

By 2005/06, 90% of applications will be processed within 140 days from the 2001/02 baseline of greater than 400 days

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
>400 days	2001/02
92% completed in 140 days	2002/03
97% completed in 140 days	2003/04

MEASURE

THE HECTARES OF CROWN AND FOREST LAND IN BRITISH COLUMBIA CERTIFIED BY MAJOR FOREST CERTIFICATION PROCESSES

DESCRIPTION:

The hectares (ha) of Crown and forest land in British Columbia certified is based on the operating area of the province's forest companies that meets the principles, standards and measures set out for forest management performance by third-party certification groups such as the Canadian Standards Association, Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forest Initiative.

IMPORTANCE:

The hectares of Crown and forest land under one or more of these certification systems helps the forest industry meet the interests of customers and demonstrates the province's commitment to sustainable forest management.

TARGET

By 2005/06, increase the proportion of forest certification by 30% from the 2001/02 baseline of 7.7 m ha

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
7.7 m ha	2001/02
17.4 m ha, an increase of 126% over 2001/02	2002/03
22.0 m ha, an increase of 186% (Dec. 31, 2003) over 2001/02	2003/04

B. BRITISH COLUMBIANS WILL PRACTISE SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

British Columbians value their natural environment and want to preserve its quality. The government is committed to promoting a vibrant economy through the sustainable development of British Columbia's natural resources while maintaining environmental integrity.

Processing applications for tenure and licence applications for land and water resources contributes to a strong and vibrant provincial economy, employment opportunities for British Columbians, and generation of the revenues necessary to provide high-performing health, education and social welfare systems. For two years in a row, Land and Water BC exceeded the target of processing 90 per cent of applications within 140 days of receipt by 2005/06. In 2003/04, fully 97 per cent of applications were processed within 140 days.

The amount of crown land certified by major certification processes (cumulative) in 2002/03 was 17.4 million hectares, and in 2003/04 was 22.0 million hectares (at December 2003). The area of land certified in 2003/04 is 186 per cent higher than the baseline of 7.7 million hectares, well over anticipated growth in certification levels. British Columbia supports forest certification as a way to meet the interests of customers and to demonstrate the province's commitment to sustainable forest management. British Columbia continues to lead all Canadian provinces in certification..

Major forest certification processes are established by the Canadian Standards Association, the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forest Initiative. ISO is excluded. Details can be found at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/certification/

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

MEASURE

PERCENTAGE OF MONITORED COMMUNITIES ACHIEVING THE CANADA-WIDE STANDARD (CWS) QUALITY OBJECTIVE OF AMOUNT OF FINE PARTICULATES IN THE AIR UNDER 2.5 MICRONS PER CUBIC METRE OF AIR (PM2.5)

DESCRIPTION:

An important measure of air quality is the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke.

IMPORTANCE:

From a human health perspective, particulate matter is the outdoor air contaminant of most concern in British Columbia. Recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less pose the greatest health risk.

TARGET

By 2005/06, 100% of communities monitored achieve, or continue to achieve, the CWS for PM2.5 from the baseline of 9 out of 10 communities in 2001

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
90% (9 of 10 communities)	2001
91% (10 of 11 communities)	2002
93% (13 of 14 communities)	2003

MEASURE

THE PER CENT OF DRINKING WATER SAMPLES WITH DETECTABLE FECAL COLI FORM BACTERIA

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the percentage of fecal positive water samples taken from water sources across the province.

IMPORTANCE:

Clean and safe drinking water is essential to the health and wellness of British Columbians.

TARGET

No detectable fecal coli form bacteria or E. coli/100 ml sample by 2005/06

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
1.74% fecal positive[26]	2003

[26] The BC Centre for Disease Control tested 53,705 water samples across the province and, of those samples, 1.74% were found to be fecal positive.

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

MEASURE

TRENDS IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT VARIABLES, SUCH AS METALS AND NUTRIENTS, INDICATE THE HEALTH OF 30 WATER BODIES MONITORED UNDER THE FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

DESCRIPTION:

Under the Canada-BC Water Quality Monitoring Agreement, surface water quality is being monitored in 30 water bodies in the province. Trends in the presence of environmentally significant variables are being monitored.

IMPORTANCE:

Ongoing monitoring of the health of the province's water is necessary to ensure that British Columbians have access to clean and safe water.

TARGET

Maintain or improve water quality trends for water bodies monitored under the federal/provincial agreement by 2005

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
90% of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies have stable or improving water quality trends	2002/03
90%	2003/04

C. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE A HEALTHY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

British Columbians value the natural environment. Preserving the quality of that environment is important for both the quality of life of individuals and the economic competitiveness of the province. Yet, as populations and economic activity increase, the quality of the environment can be threatened if development is not balanced against long-term effects on the physical environment. Government is committed to pursuing economic growth while maintaining environmental integrity.

Air quality is an important indicator of environmental health, and is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in the air. Recent findings have shown that particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less (PM2.5) pose the greatest health risk. Fine particulates can settle in the lungs and make breathing difficult for individuals, especially the elderly or those with cardiovascular problems. Monitoring PM2.5 in Canada and the provinces began recently. Additional PM2.5 monitors are being placed in British Columbia communities to improve our understanding of PM2.5 sources and levels. In 2003, 93 per cent (13 out of 14) of monitored communities for which sufficient data were available achieved the Canada-wide standard quality objective for PM2.5. The government will continue to monitor and report on the quality of British Columbia's air.

Protecting water quality is critical if British Columbians are to have access to clean and safe water. Monitoring trends in the presence of environmentally significant variables – such as metals and nutrients – will indicate the cumulative effect of multi-agency land use and resource management activities in source watersheds. The target is for water quality in the monitored water bodies to be maintained or improved by 2006. In 2003/04, 90 per cent of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies measured had stable or improving water quality. The government will continue its efforts to monitor, protect, and report on.water quality trends in British Columbia.

Another important element of protecting the physical environment is the provision of adequate wastewater treatment throughout the province. The Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure program has been the primary initiative in support of this goal. That initiative improves urban and rural local government infrastructure, and improves quality of life through investments that enhance the environment. Over the 2002/03 fiscal year, additional infrastructure investments in wastewater facilities resulted in our target being achieved. The government will continue its efforts to ensure British Columbia retains a healthy natural environment for the long-term benefit of current and future residents of the province.

D. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

MEASURE

THE AMOUNT OF NEW ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE SOURCES

DESCRIPTION:

This indicator measures the amount of new electricity produced from environmentally responsible sources.

IMPORTANCE:

The generation of new electricity produced from environmentally responsible sources supports the objectives outlined in the province's "*Energy for Our Future: A Plan for BC*" which articulates how British Columbia can harness its enormous potential to meet energy needs and generate renewed economic growth and prosperity.

TARGET

By 2005/06, at least 50% of new electricity supply will come from environmentally responsible sources[27]

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
100%	2003/04

[27] This measure was refined from that used in the 2002/03 Annual Strategic Plan Report and is intended to reflect the commitments made in the province's new energy plan entitled "Energy for Our Future: A Plan for BC."

MEASURE

THE PERCENTAGE OF KNOWN NATIVE SPECIES THAT ARE THREATENED OR ENDANGERED IN THE PROVINCE

DESCRIPTION:

The percentage of known native species (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, ferns and orchids) that are considered "threatened" or "endangered" in the province according to the national report "Wild Species 2000: The General Status of Species in Canada." Future editions of this report will be produced every five years.

IMPORTANCE:

The percentage of species that are considered "threatened" or "endangered" reflects the degree to which social and economic activities are affecting the sustainability of native species and the habitats upon which these species rely. A stable or declining percentage of "threatened" or "endangered" species is desirable not only as a natural legacy for future generations but also because species and habitat are a foundation for many economic activities (e.g., nature-based tourism) and their conservation is a growing expectation of the marketplace (e.g., forest industry product certification).

TARGET

Improve on the province's 2000 baseline of 14.2% for species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, ferns and orchids at risk.

LATEST RESULTS	YEAR
14.2%	2000
No new data until 2005	

D. BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

British Columbia's natural resources and environment enable diverse and productive uses of our land base. The government believes it is essential that the quality of our soil, water and air resources be sustained. Safe and efficient use of the province's energy resources is a key to ensuring that we develop our energy resources in a sustainable manner. A key objective of British Columbia's energy plan is to achieve environmental and economic excellence. Consistent with that plan, increasing the production of energy from renewable resources is a significant public policy goal.

British Columbia reached and improved upon its target to increase renewable energy production in 2003. In 2002/03 three independent power projects (IPP) began commercial operation - one natural gas facility and two hydro plants. This represented an increase of over 1,800 GW.h per year in energy, or an increase of 66 per cent in BC Hydro purchases from IPPs as of the end of March 2003.

In 2003/04, 100 per cent of new electricity supplies came from clean and alternative energy sources. Nine IPPs began commercial operation, adding about 640 GW.h per year of energy. Five are hydro plants, two are biogas projects and two use biomass. This represents a 14 per cent increase in the amount of energy BC Hydro purchases from all IPPs including clean, alternative and conventional generation projects. The commitment to generate new electricity from environmentally responsible sources is outlined in "Energy for Our Future: A Plan for BC". Projects to date reinforce the four cornerstones of the Plan: environmental responsibility; low electricity rates; secure and dependable energy supplies; and, increased opportunities for the private sector.

Another significant indicator of environmental sustainability is the number of species at risk in a given region. Ensuring species do not become extinct means knowing the status of species across the province – that is, which species are secure for now, which need to be watched, and which require formal assessment and perhaps protection. British Columbia has set a target to reduce – from the current level of 14.2 per cent – the number of species at risk. A national report on species at risk will be available in 2005.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
EXPEDITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY INCREASING ACCESS TO CROWN RESOURCES	**Sustainable Resource Management** Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Energy and Mines Forests	ACHIEVED: This initiative is ongoing. Crown resource access has increased through legislative amendments allowing directional drilling for oil and gas under – but not affecting – parks. Fully 97 per cent of land tenure and water license applications were processed under 140 days in 2003/04, 45 tenures were offered to First Nations and 30 consultation agreements were established. A Crown land access strategy was also completed for the agriculture sector. 99 per cent of the water license application backlog (approximately 2,500 applications) was eliminated.
PROMOTE RESOURCE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	**Small Business and Economic Development** Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Energy and Mines Forests Sustainable Resource Management	ON TRACK: Government promotes resource investment opportunities by increasing access to Crown land and resources through the completion of priority land use plans, access strategies and the identification and facilitation of resource based economic opportunities within British Columbia.
DEVELOP MARKET-BASED PRICING REGIMES WHICH INCLUDE FAIR VALUE FOR THE PROVINCE'S RESOURCES	**Forests** Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Energy and Mines Small Business and Economic Development Sustainable Resource Management	ON TRACK: Government passed legislation to 'take back' a volume of timber from major forest licensees for pricing purposes. BC Timber Sales was restructured to sell timber at market price and a market pricing system was implemented for the Coastal forest sector.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
COMPLETE PRIORITY LAND-USE PLANS TO IDENTIFY AND FACILITATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES	**Sustainable Resource Management**	ON TRACK: The Central Coast, Lillooett, North Coast and Morice Land and Resource Management Plans have been completed. The Sea to Sky strategic plan is on schedule for Fall, 2004. First Nations' consultation for the five plans will be completed in 2004. The Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands' Strategic Level Plan is on schedule for completion by December 31, 2004.
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE WORKING FOREST INITIATIVE TO INCREASE LAND BASE CERTAINTY, ENHANCE LONG-TERM FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND STREAMLINE LAND USE DECISION PROCESSES	**Sustainable Resource Management**	ON TRACK: The Working Forest Initiative is well advanced. Consultations were completed and the enabling legislation, the *Land Amendment Act* (Bill 46), received Royal Assent in November 2003.
IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES THAT IMPROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIRST NATIONS	Attorney General Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services Energy and Mines Forests Sustainable Resource Management Water, Land and Air Protection	ACHIEVED: Initiatives include 23 forestry revenue sharing agreements between government and First Nations. These agreements result from $15 million in accommodation funding and harvest volume for First Nations through Forest and Range Agreements, the new collaborative management agreement with the Heiltsuk First Nation for the Hakai Luxvbalis conservancy area on the Central Coast, and Economic Measures projects which promote First Nations participation in shellfish aquaculture, tourism, forestry, oil and gas, as well as the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY POLICY TO ENSURE SECURE AND RELIABLE ENERGY SUPPLIES, MORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND USE	**Energy and Mines**	ON TRACK: Of the 26 Policy Actions contained in the "Energy For Our Future, A Plan for BC," twelve have been fully implemented and the remaining fourteen are underway.
DETERMINE THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT	Energy and Mines Intergovernmental Relations	ON TRACK: Initiatives are underway to engage First Nations and coastal communities in discussions about the development of offshore oil and gas resources. The BC Offshore Team is also working on a management and regulatory regime in anticipation of future negotiations with the federal government. The federal government is currently conducting a three stage review of its moratorium. The first stage, an independent Science Review (Royal Society of Canada Science Panel) concluded there are no scientific reasons to preclude lifting the federal moratorium. The second stage involves public hearings by an independent panel. A report from the panel is expected in late summer. The third stage, First Nation engagement is also expected to report in late summer 2004. In April 2004, the province provided Canada with a report detailing reasons in favour of lifting the moratorium.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT OF CROWN RESOURCES	**Sustainable Resource Management** Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Energy and Mines Forests Water, Land and Air Protection	ACHIEVED: Over 25 partnerships worth over $1.5 million in annual savings have been developed focused primarily on resource information. These partnerships involve federal, provincial and municipal governments, First Nations and many private firms. Notable examples include the Integrated Cadastral Information Society, the Digital Road Atlas, First Nations Forest and Range Agreements and consultation agreements, and partnership agreements for maintenance of recreation sites and trails established with various parties.
PROVIDE ACCESS TO INTEGRATED LAND, RESOURCE AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC USE	**Sustainable Resource Management**	ON TRACK: Government has embarked on a series of large-scale projects intended to make data web-accessible so that the business climate in British Columbia is improved. Notable examples include: · The Provincial cadastral data management system · Land and resource data warehouse · Integrated land and resource registry project · Geodetic reference and base maps · Electronic exchange projects.
MAINTAIN POLICIES TO ENSURE THAT CROWN LAND AND RESOURCE DECISIONS ARE INFORMED BY FIRST NATIONS INTERESTS	**Energy and Mines** **Forests** **Sustainable Resource Management**	ON TRACK: All land use planning, resource information services and strategic policies are being developed and delivered in accord with the government's consultation and accommodation policies and treaty mandates.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
WORK WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INTEGRATE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FISHERIES TO ENSURE THE PROVINCE RECEIVES ITS FAIR SHARE OF FEDERAL FUNDING AND TO SECURE BETTER MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCE	**Agriculture, Food and Fisheries** Intergovernmental Relations Sustainable Resource Management Water, Land and Air Protection	ON TRACK: The implementation of the Agriculture Policy Framework has provided the basis for ongoing opportunities to influence federal policy and program decisions affecting the province. The recently established Pacific Council of Fisheries provides a mechanism to influence fisheries management decisions. Cooperative work on an Oceans MOU with the federal government has been initiated.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPLEMENT A STREAMLINED, SCIENCE-BASED, RESULTS-ORIENTED REGULATORY APPROACH TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT	**Sustainable Resource Management** Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Energy and Mines Forests Health Services Water, Land and Air Protection	ON TRACK: Major progress has been made. A science-based approach has been taken in new land and resource management plans, including the central coast. The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations were brought into effect on Jan 31, 2004. This Act is designed to meet the New Era commitment to "streamline the Forest Practices Code into a more workable, results-based code with tough penalties for non compliance." Both mining and oil and gas regulations have been streamlined to achieve results-based outcomes.
REDUCE IMPACTS TO SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDED *DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ACT* AND GROUNDWATER LEGISLATION	**Health Services** Water, Land and Air Protection	ON TRACK: The *Drinking Water Protection Act* was brought into force May 16, 2003. Annually, $2 million has been allocated to health regions to create new "drinking water officer positions." Phase 1 of the *Ground Water Protection Regulation*, which will establish minimum standards for well construction, operation, maintenance and certification requirements for the ground water industry is expected to receive government review by Fall 2004.
DEVELOP AND, WITH PARTNERS, IMPLEMENT AN AIR SHED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK TARGETED AT IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN COMMUNITIES	**Water, Land and Air Protection**	ON TRACK: A comprehensive provincial framework is being developed to incorporate national and provincial guidelines, and to provide guidance at the provincial and local level.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPLEMENT A REVAMPED REGIME FOR CONTAMINATED SITES ADMINISTRATION TO REDUCE BACKLOGS AND FOCUS GOVERNMENT RESOURCES ON SITES THAT POSE THE HIGHEST RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH	**Sustainable Resource Management** Water, Land and Air Protection	ON TRACK: In response to the 2002 Office of the Auditor General's "Report on Managing Contaminated Sites on Provincial Lands," a government-wide framework will be developed. Regulatory amendments and policy changes are being made to reduce backlogs in contaminated site applications and to protect human health. Significant progress was made towards the remediation of Britannia Mine.
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROVINCIAL STRATEGY TO MANAGE BIODIVERSITY	**Water, Land and Air Protection**	ON TRACK: Work on the underlying scientific foundation and gap analysis relating to species at risk is underway.
IMPLEMENT A MADE-IN-BRITISH COLUMBIA ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH GREENHOUSE GASES AND CLIMATE CHANGE	**Water, Land and Air Protection** **Energy and Mines** **Sustainable Resource Management**	COMMENCED: In partnership with other orders of government, the province has begun developing a climate change strategy and is working to ensure the province's interests are addressed in a national strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
IMPLEMENT NEW OUTCOME-BASED LEGISLATION FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND FOREST PRACTICES	**Energy and Mines** **Forests**	ACHIEVED: Government has implemented streamlined regulatory requirements for low impact mineral exploration activities. The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and regulations were brought into effect in January 2004. This Act was designed to meet the New Era commitment to "streamline the Forest Practices Code to establish a workable, results based-code, with tough penalties for non compliance."
OPERATIONALIZE THE TWO-ZONE SYSTEM FOR SUBSURFACE RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT	**Energy and Mines** Sustainable Resource Management	ON TRACK: The Ministry of Energy and Mines continues to work with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management to implement this system.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
ESTABLISH WORKABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES	**All Ministries**	ON TRACK: Treaty negotiations and the Province's accommodation initiatives are underway and are designed to enhance relationships with First Nations. All ministries and Crown agencies participate in these processes. The second annual First Citizens' Forum was held to discuss Aboriginal education, training and employment opportunities for youth.
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY CHARTER	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services**	ACHIEVED: Community Charter legislation passed in Spring 2003. Implementation is now substantially complete.
AGGRESSIVELY SUPPORT THE 2010 OLYMPIC BID	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services** Intergovernmental Relations Small Business and Economic Development Sustainable Resource Management Transportation Water, Land and Air Protection	ACHIEVED: Vancouver was awarded the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in July 2003. Government has developed a Parks 2010 Strategy to complement and support the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and has substantially completed the Sea to Sky Land Resource Management Plan to ensure sustainable land and resource management in the Olympic corridor
MODERNIZE SAFETY LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND CODES	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services**	ACHIEVED: The new Safety Standards and *Railway Safety Act* and regulations came into force on April 1, 2004.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
SPONSOR A PROVINCIAL STRATEGY THAT PROMOTES PHYSICALLY ACTIVE LIVING THROUGH ACTIVE SCHOOLS, ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZED SPORT.	**Small Business and Economic Development**[28] Education Health Services	ON TRACK: The pilot program, Action Schools! BC was implemented in 10 schools in the Lower Mainland. The program is designed to increase physical activity levels and measure the impact on health and academic levels. New graduation and physical education requirements and achievement standards are being developed and implemented. The Active Communities program is under development and will be implemented in 2004/05 by the 2010 Legacies Now Society.
IMPLEMENT A PROVINCIAL HOUSING STRATEGY TO ADDRESS MARKET AND NON-MARKET HOUSING NEEDS	**Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services**	COMMENCED: The Market Housing Strategy has been developed and implementation is in progress. The non-market housing strategy is under development.
ENSURE THAT THE PLANNING PRIORITIES OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES ARE REFLECTED IN THE PROVINCIAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC PLAN	**Transportation**	ON TRACK: This initiative is ongoing. The Regional Transportation Advisory Committees continue to provide input on the Provincial Transportation Strategic Plan.

[28] Lead accountability for this action has moved from MCAWS to MSBED.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGY	ACCOUNTABILITY	PROGRESS
INTEGRATE OVERLAPPING AND DUPLICATE POLICE SERVICES	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	ON TRACK: Amalgamations of RCMP detachments scheduled for 2003/04 have been completed resulting in less duplication of services, improved training and career opportunities for police officers, and reduced operating costs. The integration of various specialized police services or investigative units is also proceeding as planned – in 2003/04, the gaming, organized crime, homicide and securities/markets units were integrated.
FOCUS LIQUOR CONTROL ENFORCEMENT AND INSPECTIONS ON PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES SUCH AS SERVICE TO MINORS, OVER-SERVICE, OVERCROWDING AND ILLICIT ALCOHOL	**Public Safety and Solicitor General**	ON TRACK: The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch has continued to move forward with this strategy by conducting inspections to determine compliance with identification checking requirements, conducting illicit liquor inspections, training all liquor inspectors in recognizing the symptoms of intoxication, interpreting and applying overcrowding provisions, and delivering training to police agencies on evidence requirements for proving public safety contraventions.

We welcome your views, comments and ideas on the contents of this Annual Report.

Please send your comments to:

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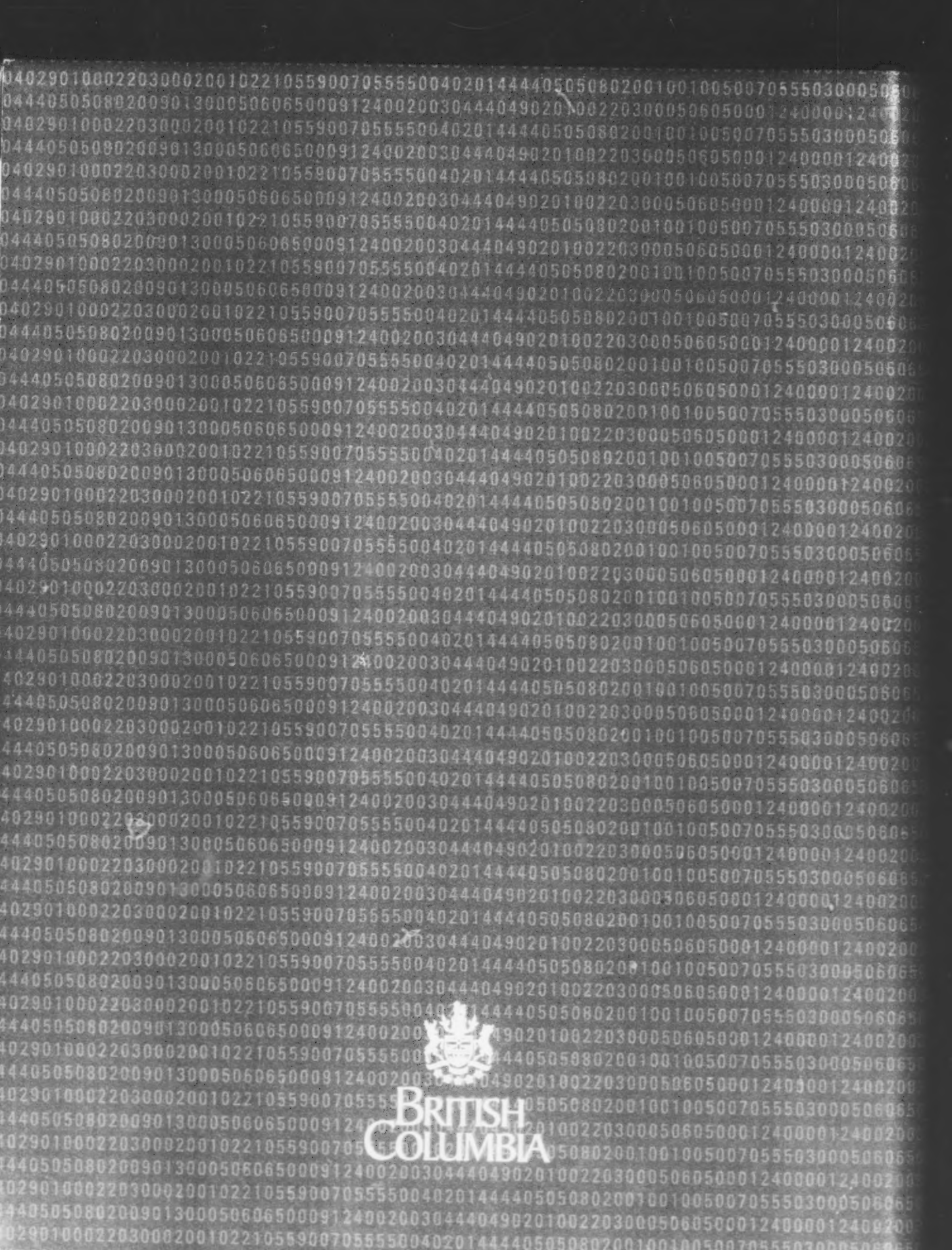
You may also e-mail your comments to: premier@gov.bc.ca

- NOTES -

- NOTES -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